

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 223989  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S-O: LRFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 223989

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, MOPS, MILI, LE, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 4583

1. PLEASE GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH PRIME MINISTER HOSS TO SAY THAT YOUR REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM ON SEPT. 17 WAS READ WITH GREAT INTEREST HERE. SAY THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONCERNS HE ADDRESSED IN HIS TALK WITH YOU:

-- WE HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF  
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CONTINUED TURMOIL IN SOUTH LEBANON, BOTH AS REGARDS LEBANON'S FUTURE AND AS REGARDS ITS IMPACT ON THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST ARENA. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH ALL THE CONCERNED PARTIES THROUGH THESE RECENT MONTHS TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT AND TO ENCOURAGE EFFORTS THAT WOULD RESTORE CALM TO THE AREA.

-- OUR BASIC MESSAGE TO ALL IS THAT ALL PARTIES WHO HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD BEHAVE WITH RESTRAINT AND HELP BRING ABOUT A STABILIZED SITUATION, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE SARKIS/HOSS GOVERNMENT TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND RESTORE LAW AND ORDER. IN OUR ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY BORNE IN

MIND LEBANESE NATIONAL INTERESTS. WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT A STABILIZED SITUATION THERE COULD HELP ADVANCE MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE EVENTUAL POLITICAL CONSENSUS IN LEBANON WHICH SARKIS AND HOSS WANT SO MUCH.

-- ON THE BASIS OF OUR MOST RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, WE ARE URGING THE ISRAELIS IN THE FIRMEST WAY NOT TO INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT AND TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN THE SOUTH TO GAIN THEIR COOPERATION WITH THE CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK ARRANGEMENTS.

-- THE SECRETARY WILL ALSO BRING THIS MATTER UP WITH DAYAN DURING THE LATTER'S WASHINGTON VISIT ON MONDAY.

-- ATHERTON HAD AN EXTREMELY USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL KHOURY WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER KHOURY'S ARRIVAL ON SEPT. 17. KHOURY'S CAREFUL EXPLANATIONS OF THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION.  
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TION AND THE LEBANESE ARMY'S FUTURE ROLE WILL BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US AS WE TAKE FUTURE STEPS.

-- U.S. POLICY IS TO SUPPORT FIRMLY THE SARKIS/HOSS GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIFYING ROLE THE TWO MEN REFLECT. ALL OUR ACTIONS RELATED TO LEBANON - SUCH AS THE OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND OUR ECONOMIC PROGRAMS - ARE AIMED AT GIVING PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO REBUILD NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TO SPEED ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND TO ACHIEVE A NATIONAL POLITICAL RECONCILIATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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